

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 HAVANA 01329 191909Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
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FM USING HAVANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1937

S E C R E T HAVANA 1329

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM LANE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, CU
SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR FOREIGN MINISTER MALMIERCA

REF: STATE 127459

1. I WAS ABLE TO SEE FIRST VICE-MINISTER ANILLO AT
11:30 A.M. MAY 19 TO DELIVER YOUR MESSAGE TO MALMIERCA.
THE LATTER IS FULLY ENGAGED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NON-ALIGNED
COORDINATING BUREAU MEETING CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IN HAVANA.

2. ANILLO TOOK FULL NOTES ON MY PRESENTATION WHICH HE
PROMISED TO TRANSMIT PROMPTLY. HE MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE
COMMENTS, BUT DID ASK TWO CLARIFYING QUESTIONS: A) COULD
WE GIVE THE GOC ANY MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE RANGE OF
DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS THROUGH WHICH THE U.S. HAS SOUGHT TO
ENCOURAGE A POLITICAL SOLUTION IN SHABA? I REPLIED THAT
I HAD NO FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS BUT WOULD ASK WHETHER
THERE IS ANYTHING FURTHER WE CAN SHARE. B) GIVEN
THE MORNING'S NEWS OF A BELGIAN-FRENCH "EXPEDITIONARY
FORCE" SENT TO SHABA, DOES THE USG ANTICIPATE SENDING
ITS OWN AIRCRAFT? I REPLIED THAT IT WAS MY UNDERSTANDING
THAT U.S. WILL SUPPORT BELGIAN-FRENCH EFFORT LOGISTICALLY
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BY DELIVERING JET FUEL AND BELGIAN EQUIPMENT. OPERATION,
I EMPHASIZED, IS INTENDED SOLELY TO EVACUATE CITIZENS OF
WESTERN COUNTRIES.

3. I INVITED ANILLO TO GET BACK TO ME ON THE QUESTION OF
A MEETING BETWEEN YOU AND VICE-PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ IN NEW
YORK, BUT I HAVE NO ASSURANCE THAT HE WILL DO SO. HE DID

INDICATE THAT THE PARTICULARS OF ANY POSSIBLE MEETING MIGHT BEST BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN OUR MISSIONS IN NEW YORK. I SUGGEST THAT IF NOTHING FURTHER IS HEARD BY MONDAY AN APPROACH BE MADE TO THE CUBAN UN MISSION.

4. CONCLUDING THE CONVERSATION, I TOLD ANILLO THAT SEVERAL CALLS HAD BEEN RECEIVED AT USINT THIS MORNING FROM CBS AND NBC IN NEW YORK AS WELL AS FROM RESIDENT FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS IN HAVANA INQUIRING ABOUT MY MEETING WITH CASTRO ON THE SHABA PROBLEM. (CBS SAID THAT THERE IS A STORY IN THIS MORNING'S NEW YORK TIMES.) I EXPRESSED MY GREAT REGRET THAT THERE APPARENTLY HAS BEEN A LEAK IN THIS MATTER, AND SAID THAT I INTENDED TO GIVE NO CONFIRMATION OR COMMENT TO INQUIRING NEWSMEN. ANILLO SAID HE APPRECIATED MY TELLING HIM AND THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD NO DOUBT BE DISTRESSED BY THIS NEWS. HE ADDED THAT IT IS OF COURSE IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE SUBSTANTIVE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS IF THE SECURITY OF THOSE EXCHANGES CANNOT BE PROTECTED.

5. AT THIS POINT ANILLO VOLUNTEERED THAT HE HAS TOLD AFP CORRESPONDENT HERE THAT CUBA IS NOT PARTICIPATING IN SHABA INCURSION. (THIS IS OF COURSE RELEVANT TO THIRD PARA. OF YOUR MESSAGE TO MALMIERCA.)

6. I AM OF COURSE DEEPLY DISTRESSED BY INDICATIONS THAT
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MY CONVERSATION WITH CASTRO HAS BEEN LEAKED TO THE PRESS. AT THE OUTSET OF THAT CONVERSATION, CASTRO SAID THAT HE HAD CHOSEN TO SEE ME VERY QUIETLY SINCE HE DID NOT WANT TO READ ABOUT IT IN THE NEWSPAPERS. I DID NOT CONSIDER IT NECESSARY TO INCLUDE THAT COMMENT IN MY REPORTING CABLE. ASSUMING THE LEAK DID NOT ORIGINATE WITH CUBANS, THIS DEVELOPMENT COULD HAVE OBVIOUSLY ADVERSE EFFECT ON MY RELATIONS WITH THE GOC, AND IT MEASUREABLY REDUCES THE LIKELIHOOD THAT I MIGHT HAVE ANY FURTHER DIRECT CONTACT ON SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS WITH CASTRO.
LANE

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